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HALF-YEARLY REPORT
OF THE
LONDON CONFERENCE
OF THE
Church of Jesus Christ
OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS,
HELD IN THE CITY OF LONDON,

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 5th AND 6th, 1852.

ELDER JAMES MARSDEN, PRESIDENT.

" THOMAS C. ARMSTRONG, SECRETARY.

CONFERENCE REPORT.

The Conference Delegate Meeting assembled in the Eastern Lecture Hall, Whitechapel, on Saturday Evening, June 5th, 1852, at 7 o'Clock, for the transaction of Conference business.

Meeting opened by singing. Prayer by Elder Marsden.

It was resolved, "That Elder John Hyde, from France, be Assistant-Secretary for the Evening."

ELDER MARSDEN then said, "It is necessary, before commencing the transaction of business particularly connected with our Conference, to present the Authorities of the Church before the meeting for their approval or disapproval, as no person will consider the rules and regulations of this Church binding upon him, unless he believes in, and is willing to sustain the Authorities of the Church."

It was then resolved, "That this meeting uphold and sustain Brigham Young as the prophet of the Lord, and Elder Heber C. Kimball, and Willard Richards, as his counsellors."

"That we uphold and sustain Orson Hyde as the president, and Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards, as members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles."



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“That we uphold and sustain Elder James Marsden, as president of the London Conference.”

“That we uphold and sustain Elder Thomas C. Armstrong, as the secretary, general book agent, and treasurer of the Perpetual Emigration Fund, of this Conference.”

“That the Saints at Whetstone be organized into a branch, and that Br. J. B. Franklin preside over them.” (Place of Meeting—Br. J. Howard’s; on Sundays, Afternoon at 3, and in the Evening at Half-past 6 o’Clock, and on Friday Evenings at 7 o’Clock.)

“That Elder Slade vacate the presidency of the Barking branch, with the thanks of this meeting for the faithful discharge of his duties, and that Elder Moor take charge of the same.”

“That the Isle of Dogs branch be united with the Limehouse branch, and that Elder Turner vacate the presidency of the Limehouse branch, with the thanks of this Meeting for the faithful discharge of his duties, and that Elder Hull take charge of the same.”

“That Elders Slade and Lancaster be appointed to take a room and establish a branch in Bermondsey.”

“That the Greenwich branch be freed from the jurisdiction of the Deptford Council.”

“That the Eltham branch be freed from the jurisdiction of the Woolwich Council.”

“That the Bow and Barking branches be freed from the jurisdiction of the Poplar Council.”

After some conversation, it was unanimously resolved, “That the Conference Fund be raised in the usual way, at the rate of £1. per 100 members for each quarter.”

ELDER MARSDEN then called upon the delegates to report the standing of their respective branches. When most of the brethren spoke in the highest terms of the condition of the saints under their charge.

ELDER MARSDEN then advised the brethren not to give notes of standing to suspicious characters, but rather to send them to the presidents of the branches which such persons may wish to unite with, and thus prevent wolves in sheep’s clothing from imposing upon the good saints by means of their certificates. We further advised them to act in all things like wise men.

Meeting closed with prayer.

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"That we uphold and sustain Samuel W. Richards, as the president of the British Conferences, and Elder Levi Richards as his counsellor."

"That we uphold and sustain Elder Jacob Gates, as the pastor of the Kent, Essex, and Reading Conferences, but especially of this Conference."

"That we uphold and sustain Elder James Marsden, as president of the London Conference."

"That we uphold and sustain Elder Thomas C. Armstrong, as the secretary, general book agent, and treasurer of the Perpetual Emigration Fund, of this Conference."

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LONDON CONFERENCE TABULAR RETURN.

Dr.	<i>State of the General Book and Star Agency Account.</i>	Cr.	
To Amount due to the Liverpool Office	£528 14 6½		
Amount due to Elder Armstrong	8 12 6½		
Amount due to Elder J. Taylor	5 12 0		
		By Amount due by the Branches } £170 19 0 (see preceding Table)	
		Amount due by the Kent Conference	66 1 11½
		Amount due by the Essex Conference	29 19 7½
		Amount due by the Reading Conference	1 4 6½
		Amount due by the Preston Conference	3 15 0
		Amount due by the Bradford Conference	2 14 9
		Amount due by the Cambridge Conference	0 8 6
		Amount due by the Western Glamorganshire Conference	2 12 6
		Amount due by the South Conference	0 6 10
		Amount due by the Calcutta branch Ditto Travelling Elders, &c. Stock on hand	6 15 0½ 10 12 11½ 199 12 10
		Cash in hand	47 15 6
	£542 19 1	£542 19 1	

Dr.	<i>State of the Conference Fund.</i>	Cr.	
To Deficiency in last Half-year's Account	£39 16 6½		
Tracts, Books, &c., given to Travelling Elders	2 18 4½		
Elder Levi Richards	4 10 0		
Sister Woodward and family	13 0 0		
Sister Willis and family	4 0 0		
Board & Lodging of Elder J. Gates	7 10 10½		
Board, &c., to visiting Elders	5 6 8		
Board & Lodging of Elder Wallace	2 15 0		
Sister Staples, to assist her and family to Liverpool	2 0 0		
Incidental Expences at Conference	0 9 0		
Rent of Hall	4 4 0		
	£86 11 5½		
		By Amount donated by the Branches } £38 19 10 during the ½-year (see Table)	
		Amount donated by the Kent Conference	5 9 7½
		Amount donated by the Reading Conference	3 4 0
		Amount donated by the Essex Conference	0 3 9
		Collection at Conference	9 14 3½
		Balance due to Treasurer	28 19 9½
		£86 11 5½	

SUNDAY MORNING.

Meeting opened by singing. Prayer by Elder John Hyde.

The following Census of officers present was taken. 3 Seventies ; 114 Elders ; 56 Priests ; 36 Teachers ; and 23 Deacons.

ELDER MARSDEN addressed the meeting as follows:—"I feel highly honored in your presence this morning, and hope that the instruction which we shall receive this day, will amply repay us for the time we may spend together. The saints cannot be satisfied with mere words; they are not to be led away with the charms and captivating powers of eloquence; they need instruction; they look for an increase of intelligence; they have learned that their exaltation in the scale of being depends, first upon a clear understanding of the truth, and secondly upon a practical recognition of that truth in their every day conduct. Most men wish to be great,—and our religion has taught us, if we would be great, we must be good, and we must know what is good in principle, that we may exemplify it in our practice. In view of these things I entreat you to cultivate a teachable disposition, that your minds may be enlighten, and your hearts made glad with the blessings of heaven. Though not written in the bible, it is nevertheless true, that living

prophets are not honored as they ought to be, even by some of the Latter-Day Saints. Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Willard Richards, were in this country some twelve or thirteen years ago. At that time the Church had just been driven out from Missouri, and these men were called to leave their families under very trying circumstances—but at the call of God, who commanded them to come to this country, they left all, and they endured all kinds of privations and toil; and if we are now rejoicing in the liberty of the gospel, if we are in possession of some of its glorious realities, if we have been made acquainted in some measure with our origin, the design of the present state of our existence, and of our future destiny;—in a word, whatever rights, titles, privileges, or blessings we enjoy in connection with this imperishable movement, we have these because of them; they were the instruments in the hands of God of conferring all these things upon us,—they constitute an important link in the great chain of power which leadeth unto God. If therefore, it is our duty to reciprocate the kindness of our friends, to pay the debt of gratitude which we owe to our benefactors, if it is our duty to be honest, then ought we to sustain the presidency of the Church. If there are any persons here who are unwilling to make sacrifice for those who have sacrificed so much for them—they certainly want improving."

The resolutions of last evening were then passed without a dissenting voice.

ELDER ARMSTRONG then read the statements of accounts. (See preceding Table.)

ELDER MARDEN stated that he considered six of each bound book, or pamphlet that is in print, quite sufficient for even the largest branches of the Church in this Conference to have on hand for sale, and this stock would not amount to more than four pounds sterling; whereas, at the present time some of the branches are in debt to the general agent fifteen pounds, and many of them eight and ten pounds. Brethren, this evil must be corrected. The book agent's accounts should be audited once a month by persons appointed by the voice of the council. This should not be neglected—seeing every council is responsible for its agent's conduct.

The Choir then sung an Anthem.

ELDER GATES said, "I have contemplated the present condition of the London Conference with pleasure. The London saints have done well. The financial affairs of this Conference are in good condition, and Elder Gates has not been forgotten. We have done well, and we shall do better, for we are a progressive people. We have received some intelligence and we want more. We must go on to perfection. That is, we must obtain more knowledge, that we may approximate nearer unto God. We must labor for celestial glory, and also for a celestial crown. We must become like God, both physically and mentally. Press forward! We are free agents, and are not dependent upon others, but on ourselves. The work of God advances—we can say to the north give up and to the south keep not back. It is no small thing to be a saint. Show yourselves worthy. Do your duty, and win a crown of celestial glory. We want to gather and we will do it. Wake up and see if you are prepared to gather up to Zion. Leave your native land, shew your perseverance and endurance. Realise your position. Accomplish your duty, that you may obtain a great reward—a celestial crown. Make up your minds to run the whole race of the christian. God shall rule, and man shall be rewarded according to his works. Each shall obtain his recompence, although one may seem to be neglected and forgotten for a time,—still he shall receive his reward, for the truth shall triumph."

Prayer by Elder Marsden, and Conference adjourned until half-past 2, p. m.

AFTERNOON.

Meeting opened with singing. Prayer by Elder Slack.

Elder Lorenzo Snow having unexpectedly arrived in London,—ELDER MÅRSDEN said, “We have been praying to the Lord for a blessing, and He has answered our prayers, by sending into our midst His apostle, that we may rejoice in his counsels. I wish to give you a little instruction. We have often been taught to obey counsel and to submit to those who are placed over us. Some have thought this a species of tyranny. For the benefit of these people and for the general advantage of all, I will give my views upon this subject. God designs His people to be one. For this our Saviour prayed, ‘Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one.’ And the apostle saith, ‘I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment.’ And the Lord has further said, ‘I say unto you be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine.’ Now I ask how can this state of things be brought about? Certainly not by means of any power which man possesses apart from his connection with the institutions of heaven. This, the history of the world, and particularly of Christendom, abundantly proves. Man’s nature and position in the world also prove this. The Phrenological organisation of man is different in different persons. The circumstances in which men are placed are extremely various. Also the sources of information by which men are surrounded are widely different both in kind and quality. And we all know that the same object, and the same sentence, frequently make one impression upon one mind, and a different impression upon another mind; and hence we think differently, we have opposite opinions. From these considerations it is evident that if the mind and will of our Lord Jesus Christ is ever accomplished in us, there must be a great sacrifice of opinion and of feeling on our part. But to what shall we make such a sacrifice? I answer to the decisions of the Priesthood of God. ‘Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, were given for the ‘perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.’ Are we then, to understand that any or all of the servants of God are infallible? No! But God is infallible, and He governs His prophet, and the prophet governs the twelve, who, in their turn govern and regulate the affairs of the Church in all the world. And if any person in authority be guilty of teaching error, or if he be guilty of transgression of any kind; those persons who know of, and can bear witness to such transaction, should proceed at once to do so, first to the delinquent himself, and if he is impenitent, then appeal to his president, for he is the only person who can sit in judgment upon such a case. It is sometimes better to submit to a temporary evil in an erroneous decision of a president than to cause a much greater and a more enduring evil, by dissenting, and producing division, and a murmuring, factious spirit, among the saints. It is wise when one of two evils must be submitted to, to choose the least, as in the case of Rahab, who could either have given up the spies to be murdered or stated they had left her house. She wisely chose the latter course, and in this she was justified. All who wish to do good ought to submit to the decisions of their president, for the reason that, we can accomplish more by an inferior policy if we are united, than by a superior policy if we are disunited. Brethren, make a noble sacrifice for a noble purpose, and be honored by the Almighty, and loved and revered by your brethren.”

ELDER SNOW said, “I rejoice in the opportunity of seeing the saints once more. It

is as unexpected to me to see you as it is to you to see me. The peculiar circumstances in which I have been placed caused me to conclude to defer my visit to Bombay, until another time, for I found that I could not attend to the request of the presidency of the Church to be in the valley by the spring of 1853, unless I made the best of my way home at once." Elder Snow made many other instructive remarks, and concluded by blessing the saints.

Meeting closed with prayer by Elder Snow.

EVENING.

Meeting opened with singing. Prayer by Elder Job Smith.

Elders John Hyde, Junr.; Job Smith; Martin Slack; and Parsons then addressed the meeting.

ELDER SNOW said, "I have quite enjoyed myself in company with the saints. I wish to say a few words respecting the accident which has recently occurred to some of the saints on the Missouri river. We grow wiser by experience. So long as I act wisely I shall live until I have finished my work; and this is a very comforting thought. If companies all preserve the spirit of God, they will be safe, but the Lord will not send his angels to preserve his people, unless they do their duty in doing the best they can for themselves in all things. If I die I should like to die, while I am in the way of duty. Some are willing to die for their country, others for their wives and children, and why should we refuse to die in the cause of God? Many of the saints who have died have died doing their duty, and if we die like them we shall be glad of it. We have all got some opposition to encounter, and if we are faithful, when we get along-side of the ancient prophets, we can tell a similar story to theirs. Let us all live right till we die, and then when we die we shall have finished our work."

ELDER MARSDEN said, "I find many of the saints of this Conference are deplorably ignorant of the Book of Mormon and the Book of Doctrines and Covenants. God has inspired Joseph Smith to translate the one, and to write the other, and if the Lord has had so much to do with them, surely we ought to read them. A superficial reading of these books is not sufficient. There is in them a hidden treasure of wisdom, which must be carefully sought out, in order to be obtained.

ELDER GATES said, "I have listened with pleasure to the instructions received. I hope you will act upon the counsel of your president, and read the Book of Mormon and Doctrines and Covenants. But do not suppose that you will never receive more revelation than those books contain, for Mormonism embraces all that is valuable and great, whether in this world or in the world to come, and though the books contain great and good principles, they do not contain enough for the salvation of the saints: but you must read them, for if you do not read them, you will not be prepared to receive the greater lessons of truth."

ELDER MARSDEN said, "I fully endorse all that Elder Gates has said. One reason why we should read these books is, that, they are printed and published for the express purpose of being read. Another reason why we should read them is, that, our enemies read them, and they quote them, unfairly, like the man who quoted the revelations of John for the purpose of proving that it was a wonder to see a woman in heaven, 'And there appeared a great wonder in heaven,—a woman;' but the Bible does not teach this doctrine when fairly quoted. Neither do our books teach what our enemies represent them as teaching. But it is necessary that people should read them if they would understand them."

Meeting concluded by prayer.

BRANCHES IN THE LONDON CONFERENCE, JUNE 5TH, 1852.

No.	BRANCHES.	PLACE OF MEETING.	NAME OF PRESIDENT.	ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT.
1	Holborn (late Theobald's Road)	148, Holborn Bars, Holborn	David Shorten	5, Hand Court, Holborn
2	Whitechapel	Eastern Lecture Hall, Whitechapel	Thomas C. Armstrong	35, Jewin Street, City
3	Somers Town	16, Alderman Street, Somers Town	William Joseph Bowring	16, Alderman Street, Somers Town
4	Woolwich	Thomas Street, Woolwich	Thomas Fisher	8, Albert Place, New Charlton, Woolwich
5	Finsbury	Providence Chapel, Cumberland St., Shoreditch	John Bray Maiben	15, Bridgewater Square
6	Paddington	65, Great Carlisle Street, Portman Market	John Thomas Geary	44, Duncan Terrace, Islington
7	Kennington	Mount Street, Walworth	John Hawkins	1, Robert Street, North Brixton
8	Old Kent Road	Crown Wharf, Canal Bridge, Old Kent Road	Garnham Hayward	1, New Street, New Town, Bermondsey
9	Islington	23, Ratcliffe Terrace, Goswell Street Road	William Cook	2, Redcross Square, Jewin Street, City
10	Chelsea	Beulah Chapel, Pond Place, Chelsea	Cornelius Bagwell	5, Cumberland Street, Marlboro' Road, Chelsea
11	Dentiford	Taylor's School Room, 1, Collier Street, Deptford	John Griffiths	1, John Street, Woolwich New Town
12	Poplar	Literary Institution, High Street, Poplar	Samuel Purdy	11, Willis Street, Poplar New Town
13	Camden Town	15, Grange Road, Camden Town	Charles Norton	6, Upper Hartland Road, Camden Town
14	Globe fields	41, Globe Road, Mile End	Thomas Hilliker	41, Globe Road, Mile End
15	Southwark	Corner of Whiting Street, Waterloo Road	Thomas Macaughie	17, Berry Street, Clerkenwell
16	Notting Dale	17, Prince's Road, Norland Square, Notting Hill	James P. Graham	17, Prince's Road, Norland Square, Notting Hill
17	Welling	Mrs. Jones', Welling	William Morrison	1, Hardins Manorway, Charlton, Woolwich
18	Westminster	Temperance Hall, Broadway, Westminster	Samuel Friday	9, Pond Terrace, Chelsea
19	Bromley	Westminster Road, Bromley Common, Kent	Thomas Caftall	At Mr. Cooper's Westerham Road, Bromley
20	Isle of Dogs	United with the Limehouse branch	Eli Hull	6, Bowen Street, Poplar New Town
21	Limehouse	Brunswick Hall, Ropemaker's Fields, Limehouse	William Henry Kelsey	118, Old Town, Croydon
22	Croydon	Ebenezer-chap., Shirley, & 118, Old-town, Croydon	Edward Shoebridge	12, Trafalgar Square, Brompton
23	Brompton	7, Gloucester Terrace, Park Walk, Brompton	Jonathan Moyes	12, Caroline Street, East, Camden Town
24	Kensall New Town	1, Richmond Villa, East Road, Kensall New Town	James Brooks	64, Tiverton Street, Newington Causeway
25	Newington Butts	2, Charles Street, Harper Street, New Kent Road	George Sims	6, Caroline Place, Queen's Elms, Brompton
26	Battersea	King Street Chapel, Battersea	Robert Haslam	12, Roman Road, Barnesbury Park
27	Holloway	1, Cornwall Place, Upper Holloway	John Squires	High Street, Putney, Surrey
28	Hammersmith	Windsor Castle Academy, King-st., Hammersmith	Robert Clifton	15, Church Street, Stoke Newington
29	Stoke Newington	15, Church Street, Stoke Newington	James Willis	20, Great Cambridge Street, Hackney Road
30	Haggerstone	20, Great Cambridge Street, Hackney Road	John Showell	17, Robert Street, Brixton
31	Lark Hall	6, Cooper's Cottages, Lark Hall Lane, Clapham	Thomas Berriman	10, Mount Street, Charlton, Woolwich
32	Eltham	Pound Place, Eltham	William Kidman	27, Ellerthorpe Street, Poplar New Town
33	Bow	Opposite Fair-Field Road, Bow Road	Henry Slade	1, Garden Place, Kirby Street, Poplar New Town
34	Barking	At Br. Danzies, North Street, Barking, Essex	James Jones	8, Royal Hill, Greenwich
35	Greenwich			210, Evelyn Street, Deptford

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